United Nations ST/SGB/2004/4

Secretariat

20 January 2004

Secretary-General's bulletin

Family status for purposes of United Nations entitlements

1. The Secretary-General has decided that family status for the purposes of entitlements under the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules should be made in all cases on the basis of the long-established principle that matters of personal status are determined by reference to the law of nationality of the staff member concerned. When a staff member has more than one nationality, the Organization will recognize under applicable rules the nationality of the State with which the staff member is most closely associated for purposes of the Staff Regulations and Rules.

2. This decision will continue to ensure respect for the social, religious and cultural diversity of the Member States and of their nationals.

3. As a result, a marriage recognized as valid under the law of the country of nationality of a staff member will qualify that staff member to receive the entitlements provided for eligible family members.

4. A legally recognized domestic partnership contracted by a staff member under the law of the country of his or her nationality will also qualify that staff member to receive the entitlements provided for eligible family members. The Organization will request the Permanent Mission to the United Nations of the country of nationality of the staff member to confirm the existence and validity of the domestic partnership contracted by the staff member under the law of that country.

5. The present bulletin shall enter into force on 1 February 2004.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**
Secretary-General

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